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June 10, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Art Unit 1641**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/967,321; Filed: October 1, 2001  
For: **Methods**  
Inventors: Blackurn *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0623.0860002/LBB

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. SKGF Cover Letter;
2. Letter; and
3. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Lawrence B. Bugaisky  
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LBB/ybh

274611v1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Blackurn *et. al.*

Application No.: 09/967,321

Filed: October 1, 2001

For: **Methods**

Confirmation No.: 4288

Art Unit: 1641

Examiner: Lam, Ann Y.

Atty. Docket: 0623.0860002/LBB

**Letter**

***Attn: Mail Stop Amendment***

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants submit the following letter after a telephone conference with Examiner Lam on June 9, 2004. Following a "status inquiry" on the undersigned's internal docket, the PAIR database was checked. Upon checking the database, it was determined that a non-final rejection was recorded as being mailed from the USPTO on March 25, 2004. No such office action was received by the undersigned. Therefore, Applicants request that a copy of the appropriate office action be sent and that the time for responding to the Office Action be reset.

Should there be any questions concerning this matter, the undersigned can be contacted at (202) 772-8589.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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Date: June 10, 2004  
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